

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 SAB-01 AID-05 IO-10 EB-07 AGR-05

IGA-01 TRSE-00 SR-02 ORM-01 OFA-01 DLOS-04 /112 W

----- 005990

R 230814Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2980

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 0886

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EAID, SO, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET-SOMALI RELATIONS: BACK TO NORMALCY

REF: MOGADISCIO 867

1. WITH ARAB LEAGUE SUMMIT NOW POSTPONED AND WITH NO RPT NO IMMEDIATE REASON TO SOFT PEDAL HIS SOVIET CONNECTION, SIAD HAS BEGUN CAMPAIGN LAVISHLY PRAISING SOVIET CONTRIBUTION TO SOMALIA AND HISTORIC TIES WHICH BIND USSR AND SOMALI TOGETHER. SIAD'S NOISY PRAISE OF USSR HAS BEEN ECHOED IN SOMALI MEDIA AS WELL. IMMEDIATE CAUSE OF SIAD'S PUBLIC GRATITUDE WAS ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW US \$60 MILLION SOMALI/ SOVIET ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PACKAGE (MOGADISCIO 867) WHICH AS ENABLED SIAD TO HIT BACK AT QUIET CRITICISM OF SOVIET STRINGINESS DURING RECENT DROUGHT EMERGENCY.

2. SIAD BEGAN HIS CAMPAIGN IN SPEECH TO SOMALI OFFICIALS,
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CIVIL SERVANTS AND YOUTH CADRES EVENING OF JUNE 18. HE DISGRESED

FROM HIS PRINCIPAL TOPIC FOR EVENING AND PRAISED RECENT SOVIET AID PACKAGE -- TRUCKS, AIRPLANES, ETC. -- BUT ALSO PAUSED TO PUT SOMALI DEBT TO USSR IN LARGER TERMS AS WELL.

3. HE TOLD HIS AUDIENCE THAT SOMALI PEOPLE SHOULD REMEMBER THAT SOVIET UNION QTE PULLED SOMALIA FROM THE SEA UNQTE AT A TIME WHEN ITS NATIONAL EXISTENCE WAS IN DANGER. DOMALIA WOULD NEVER FORGET THAT HELP. SOMALIA WAS GRATEFUL TO OTHERS WHO HAD ALSO AIDED IN RECENT CRISIS BUT SOMALI-SOVIET BOND WAS OF SPECIAL NATURE, OF A KIND WHICH COULD ONLY BE FELT BY NATION WHICH OWED ITS LIFE TO ANOTHER.

4. HE REBUKED THOSE WHO CRITICIZED USSR FOR FAILURE TO GIVE MORE GENEROUSLY TO SOMALI DROUGHT RELIEF. HE URGED PEOPLE TO GIVE THANKS TO USSR AND TO IGNORE THOSE IDLERS WHO SAT IN TEA SHOPS AND CARPED ABOUT SOVIET AID.

5. SIAD CONTINUED IN SAME VEIN EVEN MORE EMPHATICALLY DURING JUNE 19 SPEECH MARKING FIRST SOVIET AIRLIFT OF SOMALI NOMADS FROM REFUGEE CAMPS TO RESETTLEMENT SITES. SIAD SAID SOVIET DROUGHT ASSISTANCE PROVED EXTENT OF SOVIET/SOMALI FRIENDSHIP, ENABLED SOMALIA TO DISTINGUISH FRIENDS FROM ENEMIES, AND OPENED NEW PAGE IN SOVIET/SOMALI RELATIONS. HIS REMARKS WERE HEADLINED IN OKTOBER STAR, JUNE 21.

6. SIAD'S REMARKS OF JUNE 18 AND 19 MARK FIRST TIME HE HAS DEALT OPENLY WITH PUBLIC DISSATISFACTION OF LEVEL OF SOVIET RELIEF IN AIDING SOMALIA DURING CURRENT DROUGHT. (DURING PAST SEVERAL MONTHS, HE HAS ALSO TENDED DOWNPLAY IN ANY CASE SOVIET ROLE IN SOMALIA AS HE GEARED UP FOR ARAB SUMMIT CONFERENCE IN MOGADISCIO.) NEWLY ANNOUNCED SOVIET/SOMALI ECONOMIC PACKAGE IS FIRST TIME HOWEVER THAT SOVIETS HAVE GIVEN SIAD STICK BIG ENOUGH TO IMPRESS THOSE WHO HAVE COMPLAINED THE USSR DROUGHT RELIEF WAS NIGGARDLY COMPARED WITH THAT OF OTHER DONORS -- PARTICULARLY FROM WESTERN COUNTRIES. WE SUSPECT IT IS STICK SIAD HAS LONG BEEN LOOKING FOR.

7. DURING PAST SIX MONTHS, SOVIET COMMODITY RELIEF -- PRINCIPALLY CORN -- HAS BEEN OF POOR QUALITY, HAS COME LATE AND IN MODEST AMOUNTS. IT WAS NOT RPT NOT UNTIL MAY THAT
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USSR ANNOUNCED PLEDGE OF ADDITIONAL 10,000 MT OF CORN (PURCHASED IN THAILAND) WHICH PUSHED ITS FOOD GRAIN HELP TO 20,000 MT, WHICH IS ONLY 5,000 MT ABOVE THAT PLEDGED BY US. MOREOVER, ADC OFFICIALS HAVE COMPLAINED THAT SOVIET FURNISHED-CORN HAS BEEN TOTALLY UNSATISFACTORY FOR SOMALI CONSUMERS.

8. WHILE \$60 MILLIN IN ECONOMIC AID MAY LOOK LIKE A MAJOR RESPONSE TO SOMALI ECONOMIC NEEDS, THE MAKE-UP OF NEW PACKAGE

SUGGESTS THAT ITS DOLLAR VALUE IS PROBABLY GROSSLY OVERSTATED.
MOREOVER, THE TWO AREAS OF ASSISTANCE TO WHICH THE NEW PACKAGE
IS DIRECTED SERVE POLITICAL NO LESS THAN HUMANITARIAN ENDS.

A. NOMAD RESETTLEMENT: USSR IS GIVING TRUCKS AND LOANING
SOMALIA 6 AN-12 TRANSPORTS TO AIRLIFT NOMADS FROM REFUGEE
CAMPS TO RESETTLEMENT SITES (AGRICULTURE AND FISHING). THE
ALTERNATIVE TO A SPEEDY RESETTLEMENT IS THE GRADUAL RETURN
OF REFUGEES TO BUSH, WITH AN EQUIVALENT LOSS TO GSDR IN
ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL CONTROL. RAPID RESETTLEMENT IS AS
MUCH A POLITICAL AS AN ECONOMIC GOAL WHICH SOVIETS STRONGLY SUPPORT.

B. COASTAL FISHERIES: AID FOR OFF-SHORE FISHING IS ANOTHER
EFFORT BY SOVIET UNION TO MONOPOLIZE THIS SECTOR OF SOMALI
DEVELOPMENT, WHICH HAS BOTH ECONOMIC AND MILITARY ADVANTAGES.
IT IS NOT RPT NOT AN AREA WHICH USSR WISHES TO SHARE WITH OTHER
DONORS.

9. WHILE NEW SOVIET AID PACKAGE GIVES SIAD THE HELP HE HAS
BEEN LOOKING FOR IN ANSWERING PUBLIC CRITICISM OF SOVIET AID,
IT WILL NOT RPT NOT SATISFY THOSE SOMALIS FOR WHOM CRITICISM
OF SOVIET RELIEF EFFORT HAS BEEN MOST CONVENIENT WAY OF SHOWING
DISPLEASURE AT SOVIET PRESENCE.
HAMRICK

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT, FOREIGN RELATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MOGADI00886
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750217-0769
From: MOGADISCIO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750625/aaaaawkr.tel
Line Count: 138
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 MOGADISCIO 867
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 JUN 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <28 OCT 2003 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET-SOMALI RELATIONS: BACK TO NORMALCY
TAGS: PFOR, EAID, SO, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006